

Interfaith Roundtable of Kaua`i
Minutes of Meeting February 27, 2016
Lihu`e Hongwanji, 3-3530 Kuhio Hwy, Lihu`e
Submitted by Sally Wilson

Present: Vel Alahan – Saivite Hindu, Kaua`i Hindu Monastery, Tony Abuan - Roman Catholic, John Bonn - Roman Catholic St Catherine Parish, Manfred Burgmeier – Eckankar, Sister Deborah Burnham – Brahma Kumaris, Marquis Dawkins (Ishaq Mohamed) - Islam, James Combs – Salvation Army, Jim Jung – Kapa`a Hongwanji Buddhist, Hari Khalsa – Sikh, Mieko Majima – Kapa`a Hongwanji, Cynthia Moore – United Methodist, John Moore – United Methodist, Jeffery Pears – Advaita, GiGi Shanley – Religious Society of Friends (Quaker), Petra Sundheim – CSL Way of the Heart, Bob Vlach (Medford OR) Water’s Edge (Christ), JoAnn Watanabe – Wamea UCC, Sally Wilson – Jewish Comm. of Kaua`i, JoAnn Yukimura – Lihu`e Christian Church and Kaua`i County Council

1. Opening Prayer: offered by Jeffery Pears, from The Interfaith Prayer Book. He generously gave each member present a copy of the book.

2. Welcome and Call to Order: Jeffery Pears

3. Message from Councilperson JoAnn Yukimura

Mayor Carvalho is proposing a gas tax increase of which 75% will go to road improvements and 25% to transit. JoAnn would rather see an excise tax to go toward the bus, and a vehicle weight tax for the roads. No one is speaking for the poor. The Council committee on the matter will meet March 2 at 1:30 pm. Please attend.

4. Minutes of January 29, 2016: Approved as submitted

5. Treasurer’s Report: Jeffery Pears and Al Albergate

Our account contains \$490.24. An anonymous donor has committed to giving \$100 each month. IROK had a table at the Wellness Expo for both days for which we gave a \$100 donation. We have 12 new email contacts from the event.

Al will make payment from the IROK checking account of \$106 each year for the post office box.

A contribution solicitation letter has been drafted which we can distribute to our membership.

6. Committee Reports: Al Albergate suggests that at the time that officers are elected one person could be selected to be chair of each event with the support of co-chairs.

- a. Public Relations – Continues to be excellent
- b. Programming Committee – Program is full till the end of 2016.
- c. URI Committee - Members of the committee are Joann Watanabe, Hari Khalsa, Annaleah Atkinson, Ishaq Mohammed, Rita Andriello-Feren, Jeffrey Pears, GG Shanley and Robin

Taylor. Requirement was for a minimum of 7 people from 3 faiths, so we have satisfied that. The cooperative circles in which we are involved are “Interfaith Dialogues” and Peace Building.” Jeffrey will be first point of contact for our island, and Annaleah will be the second.

- d. National Day of Prayer Committee - This year all who want to can submit a prayer via email and then we can print all of them on our website. We can submit all to the media so perhaps they will print them, or interview members on the importance of being “interfaith.” This year’s committee: Jeffery, Al, Hari, Val, Jim

7. Announcements

- a. Journey with Death: Conscious Living and Dying workshop - Feb. 26, 6:30 pm at CSL: 755-9177
- b. Mayor’s Prayer Luncheon – Feb. 27 from 8 am to noon: 246-0774. Fundraiser for Kaua`i Island Ministries Christian prayer
- c. Conflict Resolution worship – Feb. 28 from 1:30 pm to 4 at Sun Village: 652-7743
- d. Kaua`i Sufi retreat with Leilah and Bodhi Be at Church of the Pacific March 4 – 6: (808)753-8334
- e. Meditation Practices (Tibetan Buddhist perspective) for Death and Dying at Kaua`i Hospice March 25-27: (831)818-2238

8. Meeting Program – Kumu Nathan Kalama

Kumu Nathan shared his upbringing in a very strict Christian home (his father was a minister). Still, he would hear family members discuss the old ways and old legends and memories. As he grew he rebelled against his strict upbringing. At Kamehameha School he met Nona Beamer who was a great influence, introducing him to Hawaiian culture and music. But Hawaiian language was not taught; Hawaiian students were told to assimilate. He developed an internal conflict between his Hawaiian self and the teachings of the church. He spent many years in Japan as a hula dancer and musician. Back home he encountered “ho`oponopono” and the conflict was resolved – he discovered that he could be who he was and live in both worlds. Nona Beamer told him, “Write your own music, write your own chants and no one can tell you it’s wrong.”

Kalama was the founder of the Kaua`i Mokihana Festival, which is in its 33rd year. His intention remains that the festival be different from those anywhere else, allowing entrants to be more creative and express their individuality.

- 9. **Next meeting** will be March 25 at Kaua`i Hospice from 12-2 pm.

10. Closing prayer

11. Donations accepted at the meeting: \$212

12. Meeting adjourned